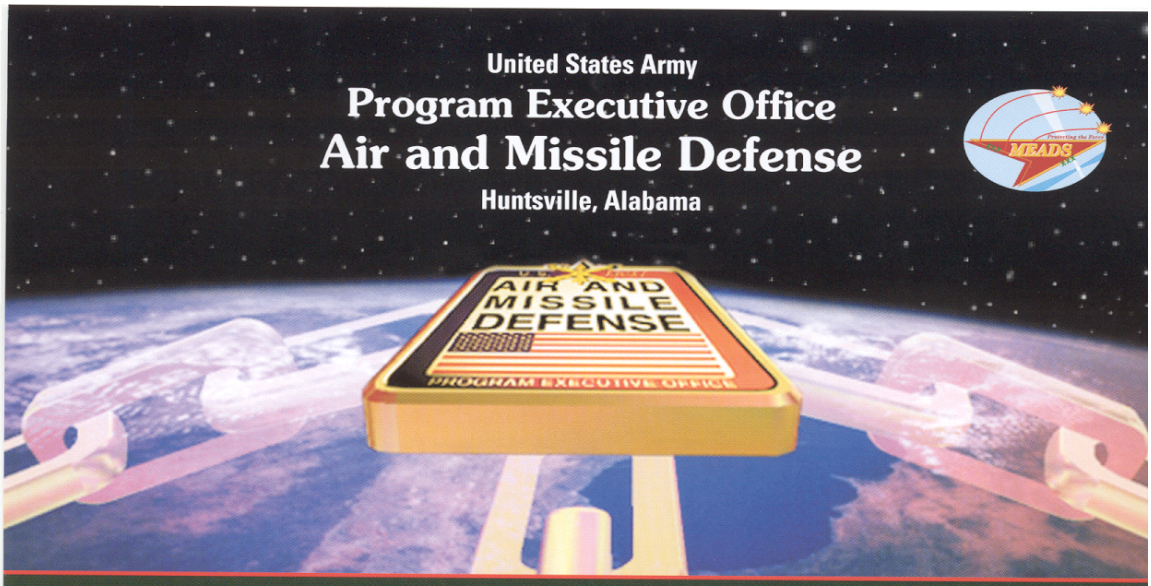
United States Army

Program Executive Office
Air and Missile Defense

Huntsville, Alabama



MEADS

- C-130/C-141 Deployable
- Highly Maneuverable
- Fully Netted & Distributed BM/C^{4}I Network
- Provides ATBM Coverage at Point-of-Attack
- Cooperative Development Program with International Partners

MEADS Will Protect 21st Century Maneuver Forces

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Theater Air and Missile Defense
Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS)

Introduction

The Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS) traces its U.S. origins to the Corps Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) project of the late 1980s and early 1990s. MEADS, a joint Army and Marine Corps program, was intended to replace the rapidly aging HAWK air defense system. The Army and Marine Corps started what is now known as MEADS in recognition of their common need to find a new air defense system that would provide rapidly deployable, low-to-medium altitude air and cruise missile defenses – anywhere in the world.

In the early 1990s, Germany and, soon afterward, Italy expressed an interest in joining the MEADS program and cooperating on system development and production. The three partners agreed to work toward creating this new international venture. One of the first concrete steps in this cooperation came with the signing of a joint Statement of Intent in 1995. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in May 1996 to commence the Project Definition/Validation Phase. In June 1996, the Management Organization charter was established under NATO.

MEADS entered a 32-month Risk Reduction and Evaluation Program in July 2001. The goal is to reduce technical risks in preparation for the subsequent design and development phase. The phase memorandum of understanding was signed on 27 June 2001, and the RRE contract was signed on 10 July 2001.

Mission

MEADS will defend the maneuver forces and fixed assets from short-range ballistic missiles, large-caliber rockets, cruise missiles, and other air-breathing threats such as aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicles. The role of MEADS in the ballistic missile defense architecture will be to bridge the gap between man-portable systems like the STINGER and the higher levels of the missile defense structure like the Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system while providing continuous coverage for rapidly advancing maneuver forces. MEADS will be rapidly deployable, have greater firepower, and require less manpower than its predecessors. MEADS is expected to replace PATRIOT starting in the 2012 timeframe.

System Description

MEADS will be a mobile SAM system designed to provide a lower tier defense for troops and high-value assets against a sophisticated array of threats. It will be a key element of the theater missile defense in the Army Air and Missile Defense Architecture. The system will consist of surveillance and fire control launchers, missiles, and Tactical Operations Centers (TOCs). It will possess a stand-alone and tailorable operational capability. As part of the Army Air and Missile Defense Architecture, the system will be compatible and interoperable with other Army air defense systems and will interface with joint and allied sensors and Battle Management/Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (BM/C^{4}I) networks.

The MEADS BM/C^{4}I architecture is fully netted and distributed among TOCs, sensors, and launchers. This communications network allows any battle element to exchange information with any other unit on an as-needed basis.

For more information, please contact:

U.S. Army PEO Air and Missile Defense
U.S. MEADS National Product Office
Attention: SFAE-AMD-LT-MEADS
P.O. Box 1500
Huntsville, AL 35807-3801
(256) 313-8240

Visit the PEO AMD website:
http://peoamd.redstone.army.mil